

### REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this Application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1 and 19-25 are pending in the present Application. Claims 2-18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 19-25 are new. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of cancelled claims. Likewise, new Claims 19-25 are presented to recite further features of the invention and to present the allowable subject matter of Claim 1 in a method claim format. No new matter has been added.

By way of summary, the Official Action presents the following issues: Claims 1 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Carneal et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,982,969, hereinafter Carneal); Claims 8 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Carneal in view of Edwards et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,198,734, hereinafter Edwards); Claims 2, 6, 11, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Mitjana et al. (European Patent No. 1030530 A2, hereinafter Mitjana); Claims 3 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Mitjana in view of Kumar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,568, hereinafter Kumar); Claims 4 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Mitjana in view of Carneal; Claims 9 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Mitjana in view of Edwards; and, Claims 5, 7, 14, and 16 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the identification of allowable subject matter.

As Claims 5, 7, 14, and 16 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter, Claim 1 has been rewritten to incorporate limitations of Claim 5, as well as its intervening

claim (Claim 2). Thus, Claim 1, and any claim depending therefrom by virtue of dependency, are believed to be in formal condition for allowance. Likewise, as new Claim 24 recites substantially similar subject matter to that recited above, Applicants respectfully submit that this new claim is allowable, as well as Claims 25-29, by virtue of dependency. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the substantive rejection of Claims 1-4, 6, 8-13, 15, 17, and 18 have been rendered moot by the foregoing Amendment. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 19-25 are now in condition for allowance.

#### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

**Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed June 9, 2003. Applicants note that this IDS has yet to be indicated as considered by the Examiner. As such, Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner provide an initialed Form 1449 in the next communication.**

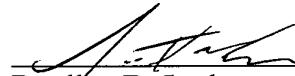
#### CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes that any additional formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this Application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present Application, including Claims 1 and 19-25, is patentably distinguished over the prior art, in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Bradley D. Lytle  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 40,073

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

Scott A. McKeown  
Registration No. 42,866

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